Vol. V. Numb. 99

THE OBSERVATOR.

The Rehearſer *a Vagrant. He's gone to* Stoke *in* Suffolk, *and to* Portſmouth *in* Hampſhire, *where he forges a Letter. The* Obſervator's *and the* Country-man's *Remarks on that Subject. Remarks on my Lord* Haverſham's *Speech. The deplorable Condition of the Gentlemen of* Londonderry. *The Juſtice of paying them their Arrears.*

From Saturday, February 22. to Wednesday, February 26. 170⅚.

Country-m. MAſter, what d'ye think is become of the *Rehearſer* now?

Obſ. I can't tell. Is he come from *Geneva?*

Country-m. Yes, he is; but he's gone a Woolgathering after his Wits.

Obſ. And 'twill be a witty Buſineſs, when they meet. Whether is he gone?

Country-m. He's gone to *Stoke*, by *Nayland*, in *Suffolk*, to take a View of the High-Church Emblem on the Sign there. You know he took a long Journey a while ago to *Oakhampton*, to convict Mr. *Review* of a Matter of Truth. I wonder in all his Preambulations, and Vagabondations, he has not been taken up for a Vagrant, and ſent for a Soldier.

Obſ. Roger, he's a cunning Fellow; he never endeavours to prove the Falſehood of a Story, 'till about a Twelve-month after the Fact is committed. He accuſes Mr. *Review* of writing the Verſes under the Picture of the Emblem, which I know to be a moſt notorious Lie; and therefore do conclude all that he ſays on that Head, to be equally falſe.

Country-m. Now, in the next Place, he is gone to *Portſmouth*; and here he fills up a whole Paper with a Letter, in Vindication of Admiral *Dilks*, againſt Mr. Alderman *Seager*.

Obſ. Prethee let me ſee that with both my Eyes.

Country-m. Here it is.

Obſ. Roger, this is all Forgery. Here is no Name ſubſcrib'd to the Letter, but 'tis a ſtrange Thing to me, and I admire much at the Dulneſs of the Non-Jurors, and High-flying Party, in keeping a Thing ſo long upon the Anvil, that they can't hammer out a Forgery, for the Benefit of their Party, in a ſhorter Time.

Mr. *Rehearſer* is become a very dull inſipid Creature; the Book of the *Rights* has jaded the long-ear'd Animal ſo, he runs to other Points, by Way of *Parentheſis*, to gain Breath; whilſt the Ghoſtly Cabal of High-Church Jeſuits, ſhall tumble over the muſty Rolls of Treaſon, to find him Authorities againſt the Queen's being Head of the Church.

Country-m. But, Maſter, he ſays the Rencounter betwixt *Dilks* and the Alderman, is worth no Body's Notice: That it was a private Quarrel, and any Gentleman may correct a *mean Fellow* for his *Inſolence*; and that this Alderman is a *Baker*.

Obſ. Very well, *Roger*, I have nothing to ſay to the Letter, believing the whole to be a Forgery, it having the open Face of Falſehood. But as to what the *Rehearſer* ſays of the Matter of Fact, I ſhall make ſome Obſervations; as

Firſt, That this Concern is worthy the Notice of every Body, of all the good People of *England*, who have any Regard to the Laws of the Realm, their own Franchiſe and Liberty; for if the military Power, the Land and Sea Forces, be above the Civil Magiſtracy, we muſt make another Interpretation of *Curiat Lex*, and ſay, that our Law is running away.

Secondly, Query, Which is the better Man, an Alderman and Juſtice of a Capital Town, or a Flag-Officer? Or otherwiſe, He that pays, or he that is pay'd? But, *Roger*, the *meaneſt Fellow* in *England*, has as good a Right to his Property, as the beſt Lord in the Land; and tho' they have different and ſeparate Priviledges, it is by way of Diſtinction only, and the ſame Law [illegible] the other in his Right; and if ſuch Actions as theſe continue, and an Alderman of a Town, a Wealthy ſubſtantial Subject, ſhall be thus us'd, and by the common Libeller of the Party, be call'd a *mean Fellow*, the Diſcipline is getting up to the *Peerage*, faſter than a *Virginia Creeper*, for 'twill go round, if not ſtop'd. Pray, Gentlemen, don't ſtare like Wild-Cats; don't look ſo much Abroad, but look a little at Home.

One Word to the *Rehearſer*. Prethee, Slave, tell me by what Law the greateſt Man in the Kingdom can *Cane* the meaneſt? And whether it looks like a *Man of Honour*, as our Admiral call'd himſelf, to ſet upon a naked Man? We ſhall be in a ſad Condition, if *Club Law* get above *Common Law*.

Obſ. Thirdly, He ſays the Alderman is a *Baker*: What then? The beſt of our Gentry, and many of our Nobility, don't diſdain to breed their Children to Trades. 'Tis the trading Part of the Nation, that is the chief Support of the Government, and whoſe Money defrays the greateſt Part of the Charge of the War; and therefore, muſt the Officers employ'd in that War, who eat the Traders Bread, be beaten and abus'd? Traders are no ſuch ſorry People as the *Rehearſer* ſuggeſts; they have the Money of the Nation among'em; and I, that am acquainted with all Sorts and Degrees of Men, do aſſure thee, they have their Share of Brains too; and it may ſo happen once in an hundred Years, that a Perſon may come to be an Admiral, that has not Senſe enough to make a Biſket-Cake.

But, *Roger*, in the fourth Place. To my certain

certain Knowledge, this Alderman *Seager*, this *mean Fellow*, as the *Rehearſer* calls him, has ſerv'd the Government of *England* with many thouſand Pounds Worth of Bread, and I don't in the leaſt queſtion, but this very Admiral has eaten of his Bread long before he has pay'd for't. Men that ſerve the Government in its Exegencies, ought not to be ſo treated. Look into the Books of *Loans* in the *Chamberlain's Office*, or at the *Exchequer*, and ſee what *mean Fellows* our Traders are. But, *Roger*, this is Breath ſpent to no Purpoſe.

Country-m. Maſter, you diſdain to anſwer the Letter, becauſe 'tis a Forgery; I believe 'tis ſo too; but while you fill and light your Pipe, I will ſpeak one Word on the Behalf of this honeſt Alderman.

Obſ. Prethee do, *Roger*.

Country-m. Maſter, the Forger of this pretended Letter, reflects on Alderman *Seager*, for ſending a Letter of Complaint to his Royal Highneſs, and the Secretary of State, when he had taken the Advantage of the Law againſt the Admiral.

Now, in taking the Advantage of Law againſt the Admiral, the Alderman only conſider'd him as a *Rioter* and an *Aſſaulter*, but he writ up to Court againſt him, as he was an *Officer*; and her Majeſty having declar'd, that it was her Royal Intention to diſtinguiſh Men of Vertue and Religion, by preferring them to Places of Profit and Truſt, the Alderman, as a good Subject, could do no leſs than take the beſt Method of informing her Majeſty, how little that Perſon deſerv'd her Royal Favour.

Now have at thee, Mr. *Rehearſer*. Pr'ythee, Slave, when thou do'ſt lie again, don't lie ſo cloſe, but that a Body may lie by thee.

Obſ. Now, if you pleaſe, give me your Opinion of my Lord *Haverſham*'s Speech; I hope you have read it.

Obſ. Yes, *Roger*, I have, but I hope you would not have me write on that Subject; is it not forbidden?

But I will make bold with his Lordſhip's Speech at the latter End of it, relating to the Gentlemen of *Londonderry*. *They were the Perſons that made the firſt and noble Stop to King* James *in* Ireland. And without that Stop, King *William* might have ſtop'd in his Government, and we not have ſeen ſo good a Queen on the Throne at this Day. But thoſe that are firſt in Service, are oft Times laſt in Payment.

Country-m. Pray, Sir, how long ago is it that theſe Men did this Service? I remember I heard great Talk of them, how they kill'd the Devil and all of Men, and liv'd upon Horſes, and Dogs, and Cats, Mice, and all Manner of Carrion; and I remember the Folk ſaid at that Time, they would be well rewarded for their Courage, and would have Pinch-Gut Money enough.

Obſ. 'Tis about 18 or 19 Years ago ſince theſe Gentlemen began their unparalell'd Service, and the Arrears due to them, is not much above one hundred thouſand Pounds; a ſmall Sum in the Pocket of the Kingdom, you'll ſay, when perhaps near an hundred Millions have been rais'd ſince that Time.

But, *Roger*, we muſt conſider, that the Nation has been almoſt ever ſince in War, and the ſmall Interval of Peace, did not afford us Time to make good the Deficiencies of the Funds, and the *extra* Charge of the War; and the preſent Neceſſities of the Government, ſtill preſſing ſo cloſe, there has been no Room to conſider theſe Gentlemen, nor any Overplus to pay them with; for tho' an hundred thouſand Pounds be a ſmall Sum in Reſpect of a Fund, yet 'tis a large one in Point of Overplus; we ſhall rarely find in the *Exchequer*, ſuch a Redundancy, as to have ſuch a Sum there unappropriated.

Country-m. Then, Maſter, I would have a Fund rais'd on Purpoſe to pay theſe honeſt brave Gentlemen. Would my Landlord would truſt me ſo long for his Rent, I do proteſt I would pay my *Quota* towards it, with all the Joyfulneſs imaginable.

Obſ. Now, *Roger*, thou ſay'ſt ſomething. A new Fund would do the Buſineſs, and ſuch a Fund may be got. If a Perſon might be heard on Behalf of theſe brave Gentlemen, that have done the Nation ſuch ſingular Service, I could propoſe a Fund for the Payment of their Arrears, with much more Money ariſing thereby, and which ſhould not in the leaſt interfere with any of the preſent Funds; and to which no one poor Man in the Kingdom ſhould pay one Penny; and this Fund would alſo be juſt and equitable.

Country-m. 'Tis Pitty, Maſter, ſuch a Thing ſhould not be conſider'd. If the poor Gentlemen were ſtarving ſo long ago, they are half of 'em dead with Hunger by this Time.

Obſ. And how many of their Friends and Relations, that have ſubſiſted them all this Time, are empoveriſh'd thereby? When Debts are ſo long due, the Payment of them becomes a Charity. But alas! that's a cold Thing.

Country-m. Maſter, I wonder at *London*, that the Mob ſhould run out at ſuch a Rate againſt this honeſt Lord *Haverſham*. They ſay he's a *Turn-Coat*, and I don't know what.

Obſ. This is not the firſt Time. But he has little Buſineſs on his Hands, that has leiſure to heed the Reſentment of the common People; ſolid Vertue is too weighty in it ſelf to be blown up by Popular Breath; that's eſſential to the Nature of a Bubble.

I don't know wherein his Lordſhip has turn'd his Coat; he's the ſame *Engliſh*-man as ever, and as much her Majeſty's Friend; he was once her beſt Friend in a Houſe of Commons, and why he ſhould be otherwiſe in a Houſe of Lords, no one can ſhow a Reaſon: If he be miſtaken in this Point, he is not the only Man in the Kingdom that is ſo. He is generally the honeſteſt Man, that is found leaſt in a moving Poſture; and as upon the Water, we think the Ship moves, that is at an Anchor, when 'tis we move our ſelves; ſuch may be the *Deceptio Viſus* of the common People.

But, *Roger*, a ſhort Time, a few Years will put an End to theſe Controverſies, either the Effects of Things will ſhow us the Right, or we ſhall be bury'd in the Duſt, where we ſhall not lament the Calamities of our dear Country.

Country-m. I would only have one Thing, that is, a Prohibition of *Scots* Ruffians, becauſe we have too many of our own.

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